

Good morning. My name is Landon Krantz, I am the President of the Student Society for Stem Cell Research at the University of Michigan. Two years ago, my group's former president spoke at a hearing about Michigan's restrictive stem cell research laws just like this hearing today. A couple months later, he graduated from U of M and left the state to spend a year at Northwestern doing research, with his interest in stem cells being one of the driving factors that took him away to Northwestern and then to California for medical school. At Stanford right now, he is hoping to meet up with **another** former Michigan resident driven away by the restrictive environment, researcher Michael Clarke.

If *I* have **any** interest in pursuing stem cell research when I graduate from Michigan in two years, I am not sure where I will end up, but I know where I will not end up. It will be hard to convince me to stay here in Michigan.

Originally from Illinois, I was accepted to the University of Illinois but chose to study at U of M. I chose U of M because the University system here is more dynamic and more vibrant than in my home state. I came to Michigan because of its exciting atmosphere and opportunities, and I see myself leaving Michigan four years after arriving because of the exciting atmospheres elsewhere.

The hopes of progress, of cures, and of a better quality of life for millions of people through embryonic stem cell research excite me. This scientific field is growing, and it's time for Michigan to hop on board and contribute to this field or students like myself are going to regrettably hop off Michigan and head somewhere else to states like New York, California, New Jersey, or others. It is unfortunate that a scientific researcher in Michigan lacks the rights that researchers have a couple hundred miles west in Wisconsin and only a couple hundred miles south in Illinois. Rights that are granted to American scientists around the country are absent in Michigan. Currently, the state's universities have terrific facilities and are tremendous supporters of scientific research; all they need now is the legal permission for embryonic stem cell research to achieve even more. I implore this committee to recognize the importance of this bill and help prevent Michigan's best and brightest from leaving the state to thrive elsewhere.